

Agency 81 - Commission F/t Blind & Visually Impaired

Statutory Authority:

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired was created by LB 352 in 2000 by the Nebraska Unicameral. Reference Nebraska Revised Statutes Sections 83-201.01-03, 83-211, 83-211.02, and 71-4720.01.

Vision Statement:

The Commission will provide world class services to blind and visually impaired persons. The services will be efficient, easy to access, geared to unique individual needs, and provided with cost effectiveness while not comprising quality. As a result of the services provided, the target population will become full participants in work, education, community and family life.

Mission Statement:

The mission of NCBVI is to provide services enabling blind persons to achieve education or training, engage in the workforce, eliminate dependence on public support, and to be able to live independently, actively participating in all facets of life.

The primary principle is the concept that vision loss does not, in itself, prevent people from achieving personal goals and ambitions. To accomplish full participation in life, blind persons need to develop a positive understanding of blindness, gain confidence in their abilities, and learn the skills needed to function non-visually. Employers, educators, family members, and the public in general, require education & information to understand how tasks are done without vision in order to eliminate the attitudinal barriers which do prevent blind persons from achieving their goals.

Goals:

1. Increase number of blind/visually impaired persons who are gainfully employed in the career of their choice, including transition ages 16 to 26 years.
2. Increase number of blind persons who live independently without dependence on public assistance.
3. Increase number of persons served who are Deaf-Blind, multiply disabled, and who represent racial and ethnic population groups.
4. Expand funding base to assure meeting federal match requirements and to assure long-term stability of services to blind Nebraskans, without increasing reliance on General funds.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	0	465,773	618,377	480,537	647,964	495,449
Cash Fund	0	46,000	46,835	46,895	48,210	47,803
Federal Fund	0	2,819,313	3,316,178	3,184,034	3,405,617	3,274,709
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	50,000	40,000	50,000	30,000	50,000
Total Agency	0	3,381,086	4,021,390	3,761,466	4,131,791	3,867,961

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Program 357 - Blind & Visually Impaired

Program Objectives:

Increase successful Vocational Rehabilitation closures by 5 percent each year.

Increase successful Independent Living closures by 5 percent each year.

Increase by 5 percent each year, number of persons served who are Deaf-Blind, multiply disabled, or who represent racial and ethnic minorities.

Financial Data:

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Performance Measures:

INPUTS: Staffing levels and number of person-hours for providing services will be tracked. Resources used to provide the services will be examined in comparison to results in terms of efficiency of effort, outcomes and quality levels achieved.

OUTPUTS: The amount of government aid provided, via vocational and independent living rehabilitation services, will be monitored and measured. Outputs will be expected to increase in line with the funding base we achieve. This is highly dependent upon the amount of non-federal match available, to pull down the full federal allotment.

EFFICIENCY: The Commission is currently in its first year of existence. During this biennium, costs of labor and materials per unit of service provided will be tracked and monitored to establish a baseline. The baseline can then be utilized to establish performance measures of efficiency in the planning process for the subsequent biennium.

OUTCOMES: The primary outcome measure is number of persons served in the two tracks: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Independent Living (IL). Number of persons served will be expected to increase by 5 percent each year, as follows.

VR: 602 (99-00); 630 (00-01); 661 (01-02); 693 (02-03)

IL: 1370 (99-00); 1438 (00-01); 1509 (01-02); 1584 (02-03)

Another important measure of outcomes is the number of cases closed successful, or rehabilitated. We will also expect a 5 percent increase in successful closures, as follows.

VR: 114 (99-00); 119 (00-01); 124 (01-02); 130 (02-03)

IL: 242 (99-00); 254 (00-01); 267 (01-02); 280 (02-03)